

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## MT DROUGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING RESERVOIR AND RIVER OPERATIONS

October 17, 2007



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

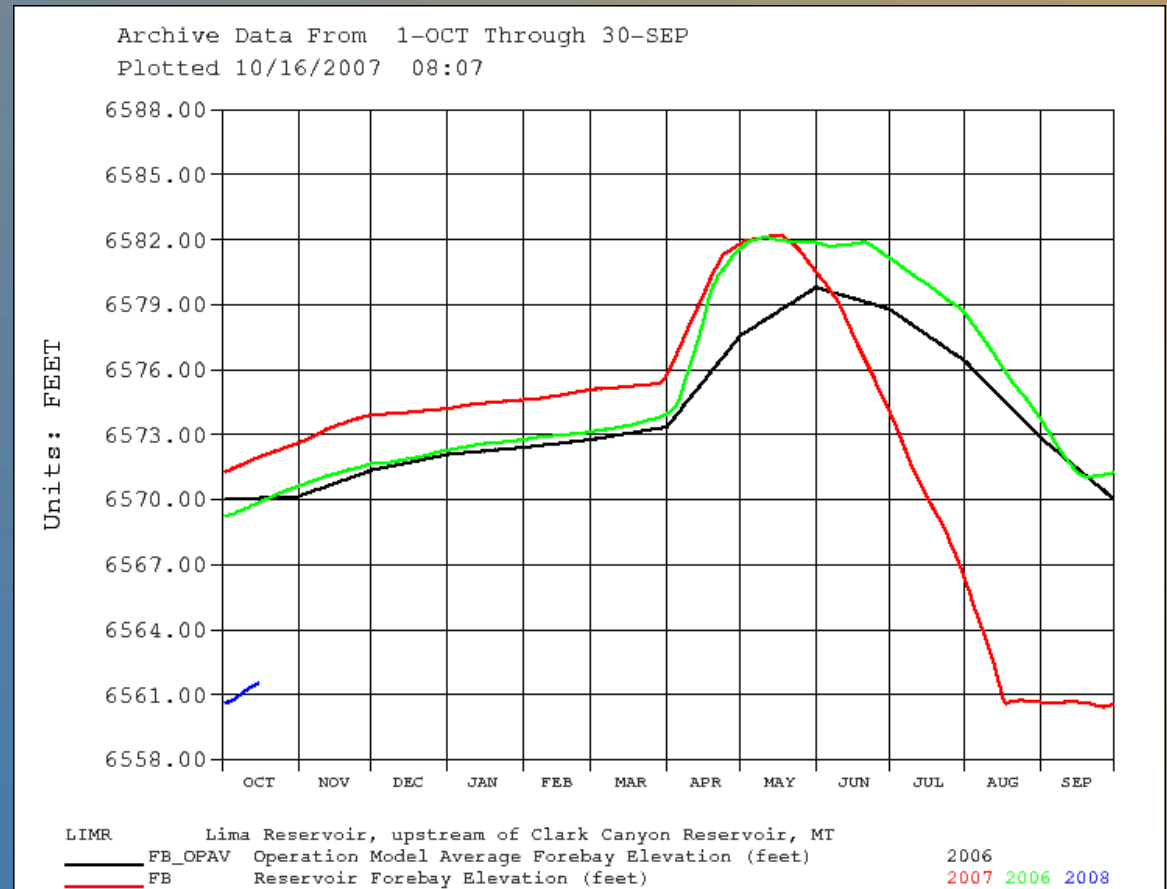
# Lima Reservoir

Inflows continue to remain well below normal

Storage @ 13,000 af - 43% of average & 15% of full capacity

Storage was heavily drafted to meet irrigation demands

At this time, carry-over storage for next year looks poor



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# Hebgen Reservoir (PPL-MT)

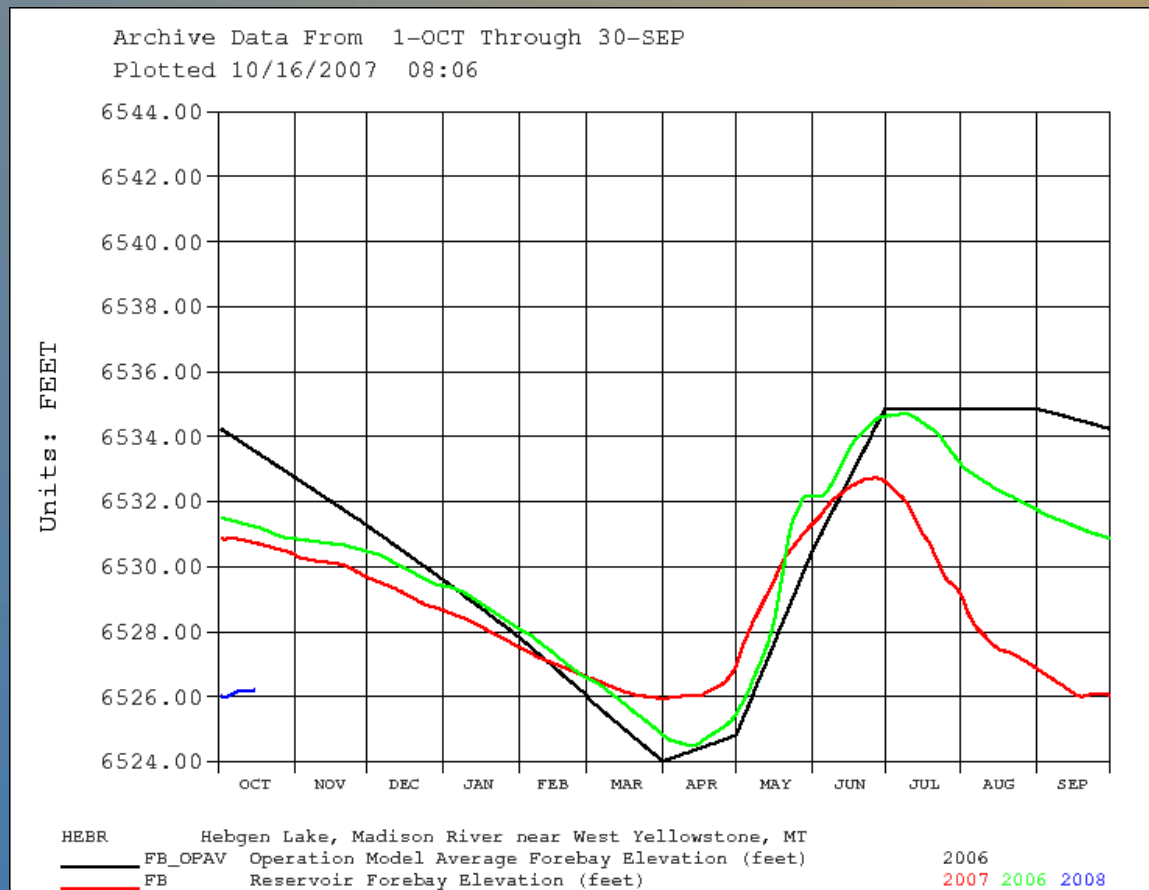
**Inflows continue to remain well below normal**

**Storage @ 283,900 af - 77% of average & 74% of full capacity**

**Currently releasing 590 cfs to the Madison River**

**Pulse flows were implemented much of the summer to control river temperatures**

**At this time, carry over storage looks poor with storage levels already at the normal low levels required in early spring**



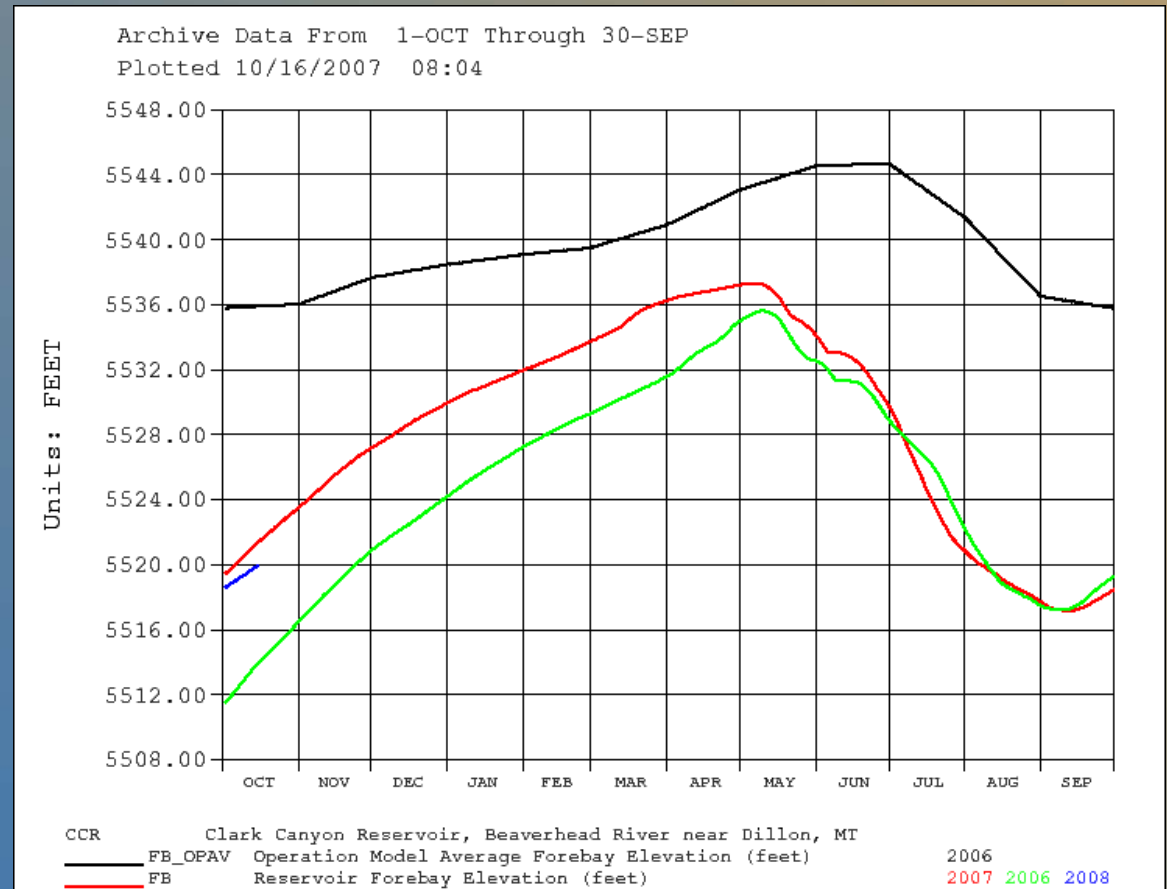
# Clark Canyon Reservoir

Inflows continue to remain well below normal

Storage @ 66,400 af - 53% of average & 48% of full capacity

Releases are being maintained at the desired fall & winter flow rate of 25-30 cfs

At this time, carry-over storage for next year looks poor but very similar to a year ago



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# Canyon Ferry Reservoir

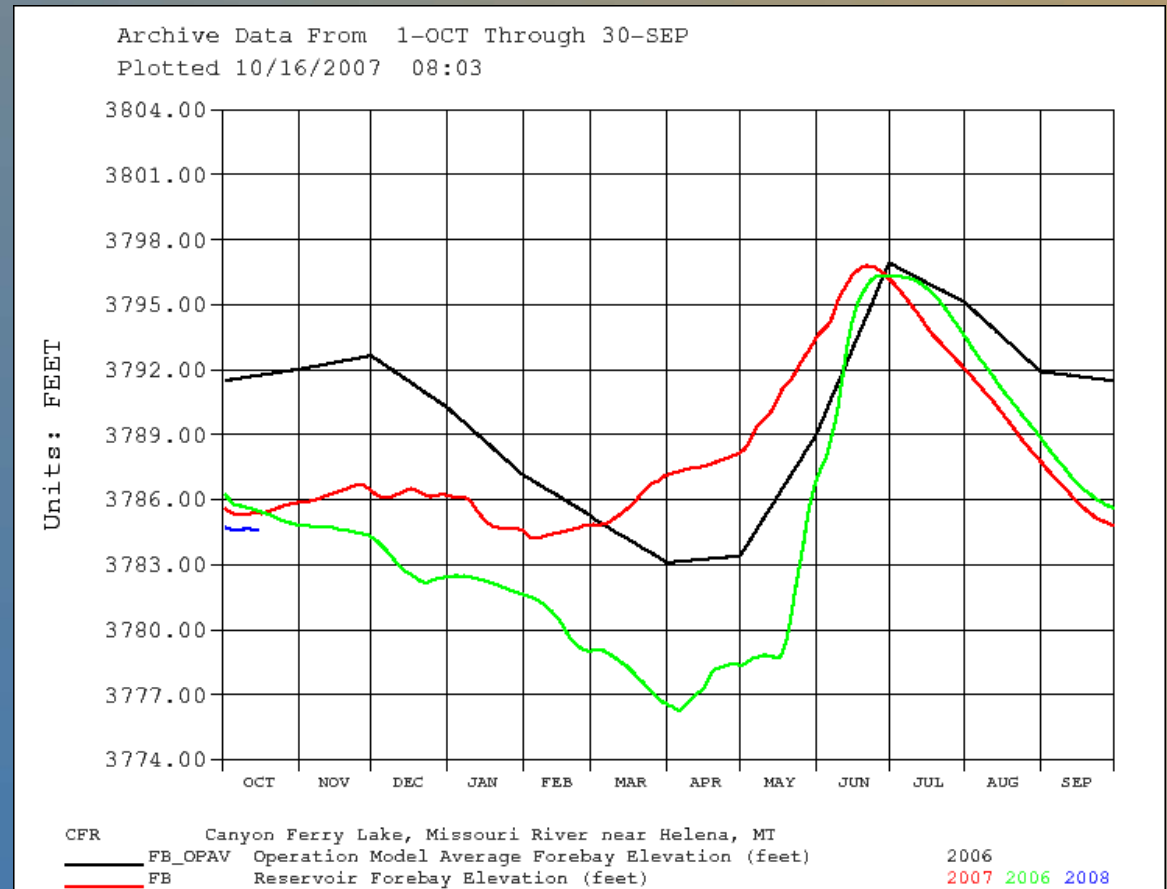
Inflows continue to remain well below normal

Storage @ 1,495,400 af - 87% of average & 79% of full capacity

Releases are being maintained at 3,300 cfs below Holter Dam

Operations are closely mimicking those in 2006

Water supply outlook looks favorable but will continue to monitor closely and adjust releases lower if needed to protect storage



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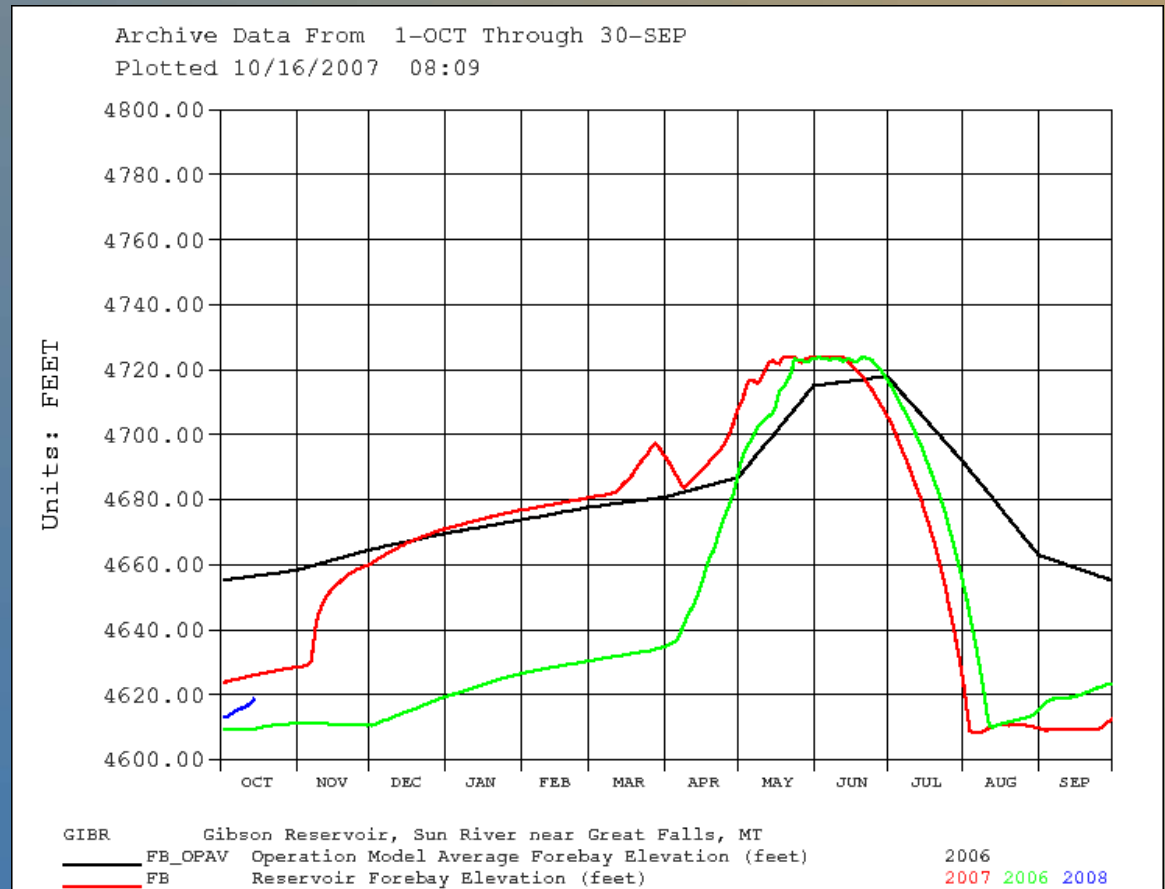
# Gibson Reservoir

Inflows continue to remain well below normal

Storage @ 8,100 af - 28% of average & 8% of full capacity

Releases from Gibson is being maintained at 150 cfs to the river and 75 cfs is being diverted to Willow Creek Reservoir

At this time carry-over storage looks poor but is slowly increasing



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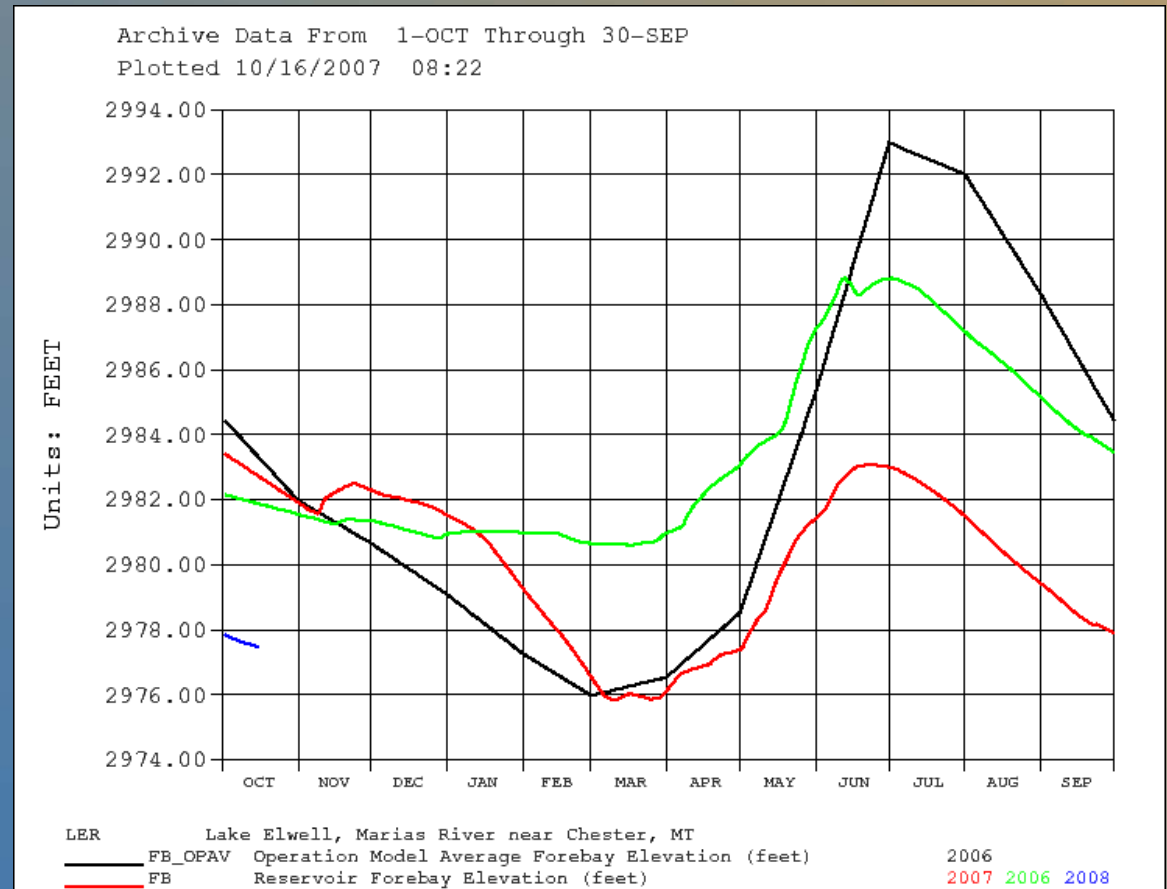
# Lake Elwell (Tiber Reservoir)

Inflows continue to remain well below normal

Storage @ 687,600 af - 89% of average & 74% of full capacity

Fall & winter releases to the Marias River are being maintained at 320 cfs

At this time, carry-over storage for next year will be at critically low levels



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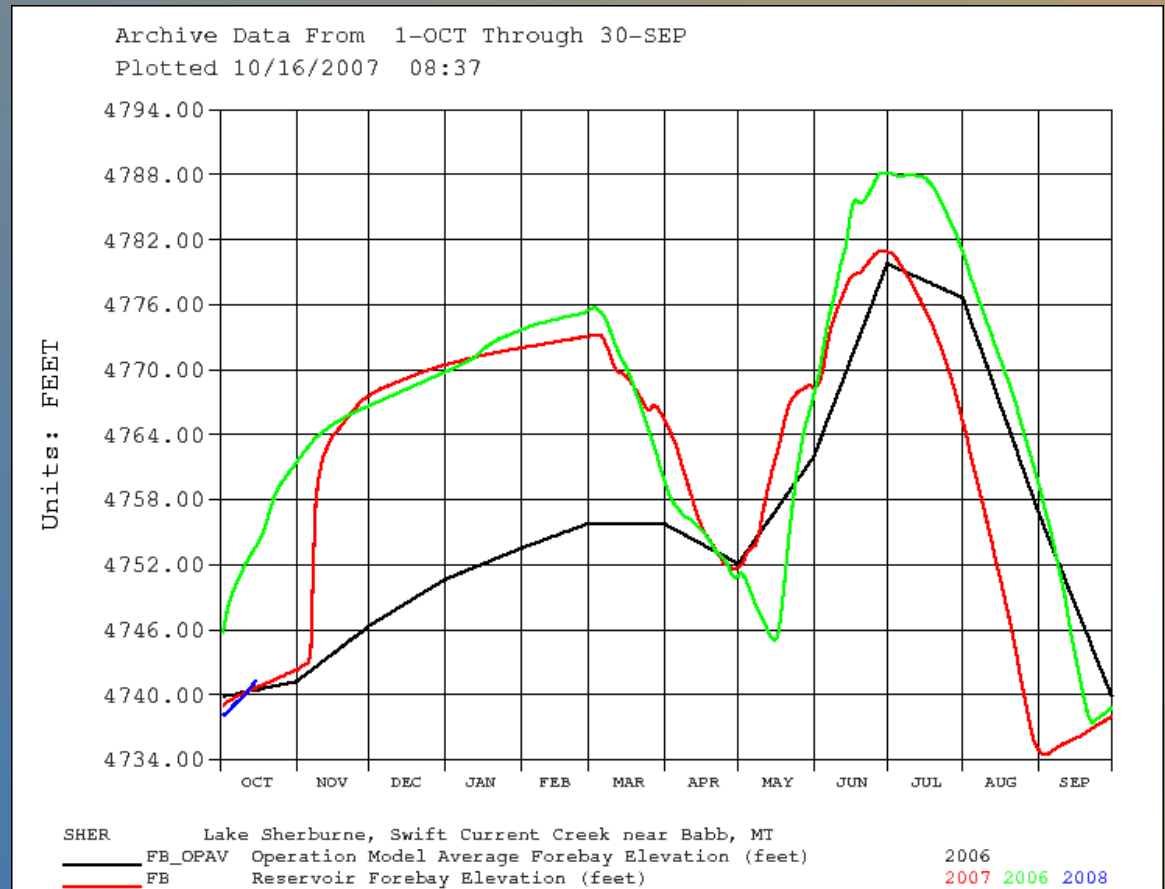
# Lake Sherburne

Inflows continue to remain well below normal

Storage @ 8,500 af – 98% of average & 13% of full capacity

All releases from Lake Sherburne and all diversions from St. Mary River Basin to the Milk River Basin have been discontinued for the year

At this time, carry-over storage is near average for this time of year



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# Fresno Reservoir

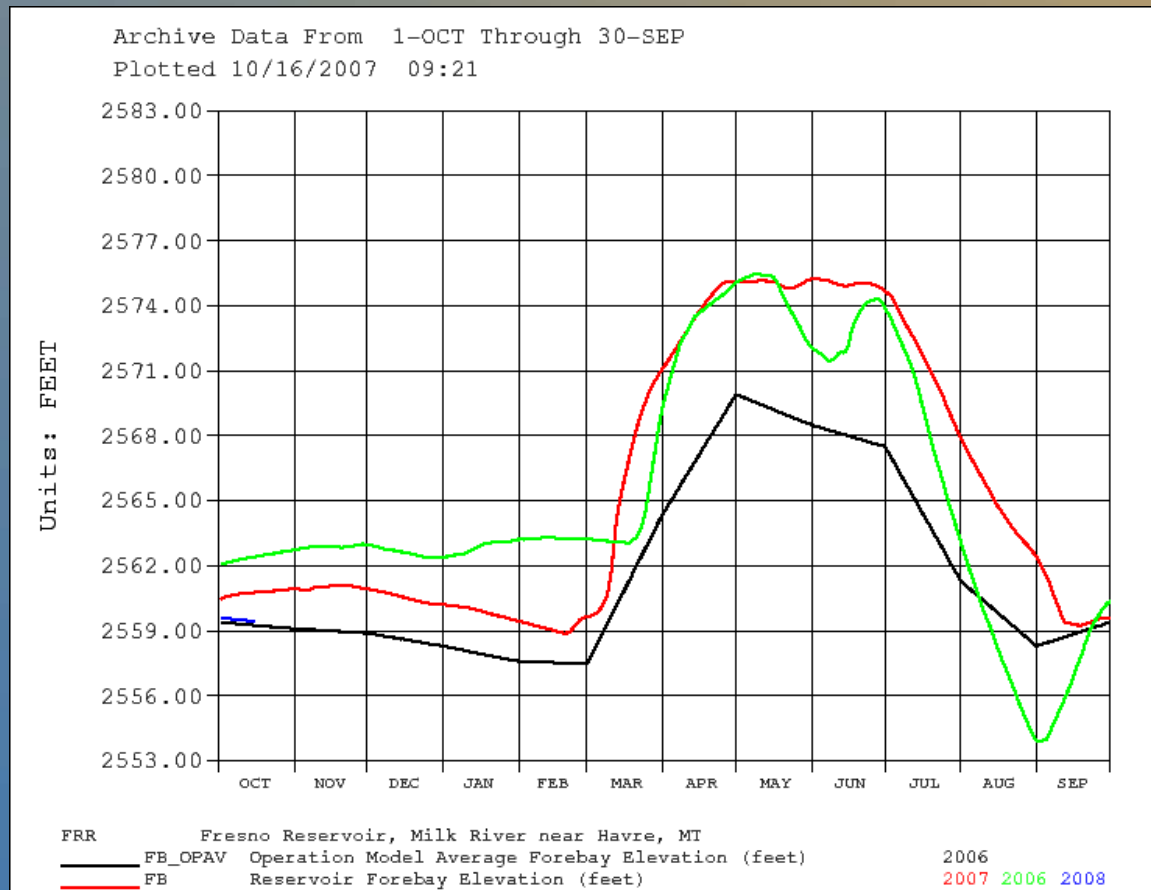
Inflows continue to remain well below normal

All diversions from St. Mary Basin to Milk River have been discontinued

Storage @ 40,100 af - 101% of average & 43% of full capacity

Releases are being maintained at 40-45 cfs for municipalities

At this time, carry-over storage for next year looks favorable but will be closely monitored



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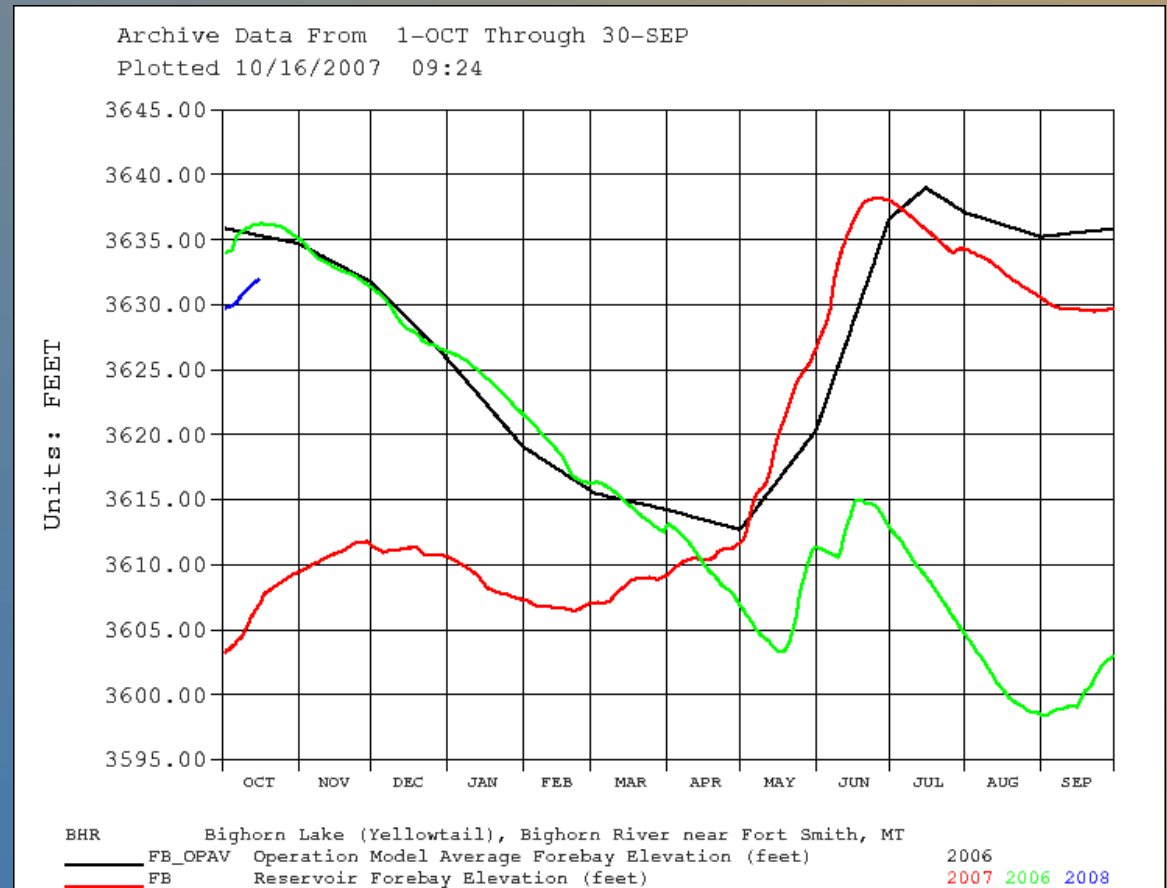
# Bighorn Lake (Yellowtail Reservoir)

Inflows continue to remain well below normal

Storage @ 971,100 af - 96% of average & 91% of full capacity

Releases are being maintained at 1,750 cfs, about 750 cfs below the minimum desired fisher flow of 2,500 cfs

As Reclamation continues to monitor climatic and hydrologic conditions closely, there are plans to increase the fall & winter releases to 1,900 cfs in early November



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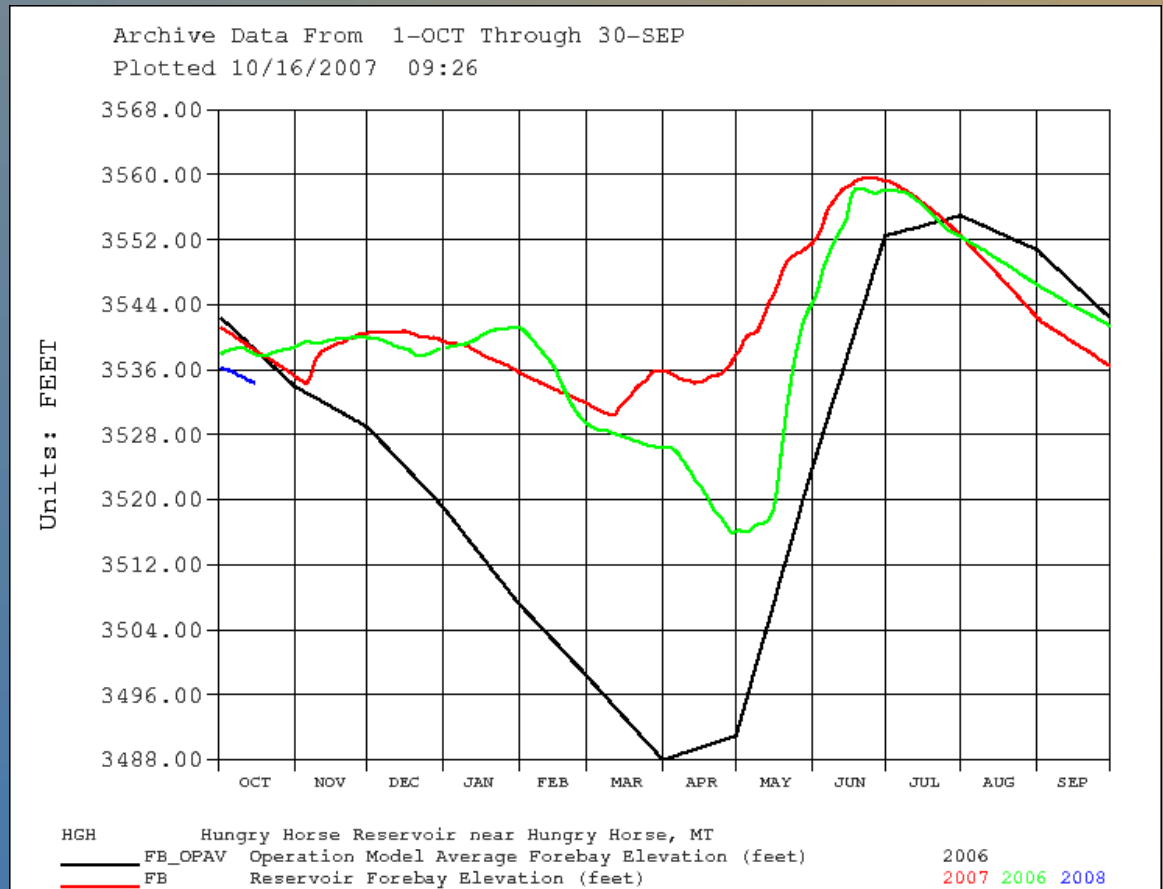
# Hungry Horse Reservoir

Inflows continue to remain well below average

Storage @ 2,509,900 af - 97% of average & 84% of full capacity

Releasing 2,200 cfs to river

Conservative releases are being made from Hungry Horse to prevent storage from dropping too quickly



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# Reservoir Conditions for Reclamation Reservoirs

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
MONTANA AREA OFFICE  
**RESERVOIR OPERATIONS REPORT**  
15-Oct-2007  
ALL CONTENTS IN ACRE-FEET

RESERVOIR NAME	NORMAL FULL POOL	TOTAL CAPACITY	AVERAGE CAPACITY	RESERVOIR CONDITIONS							WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK						
				ELEVATION (FEET)		CAPACITY (ACRE-FEET)		2007			MTN. SNOW WATER CONTENT (INCHES)				OCTOBER RUNOFF OCTOBER 1st FORECAST		
				2006	2007	2006	2007	% FULL	% OF AVG	% OF Last Yr	2006	2007	AVG	% OF AVG	(KAF)	AVG	% OF AVG
CLARK CANYON	5546.10	174,368	125,084	5521.44	5519.99	70,788	66,398	38	53	94	0.34	0.29	0.31	92	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
CANYON FERRY	3797.00	1,891,888	1,719,577	3785.36	3784.63	1,517,817	1,495,441	79	87	99	0.23	0.61	0.50	122	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
GIBSON	4724.00	96,477	28,890	4626.27	4619.63	11,780	8,860	9	31	75	0.00	0.13	0.32	42	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
PISHKUN	4370.00	46,694	33,424	4342.00	4343.18	16,008	16,872	36	50	105	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
WILLOW CREEK	4142.00	31,848	18,172	4136.10	4129.32	23,615	15,570	49	86	66	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
LAKE ELWELL	2993.00	925,649	766,749	2982.72	2977.48	758,300	686,247	74	90	90	0.02	0.07	0.54	12	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
SHERBURNE	4788.00	66,147	8,854	4740.71	4741.39	9,025	9,543	14	108	106	0.05	0.80	0.47	170	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
FRESNO	2575.00	92,880	39,546	2560.78	2559.42	43,118	39,913	43	101	93	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
NELSON	2221.60	78,951	57,873	2214.13	2215.61	50,297	55,417	70	96	110	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
BIGHORN LAKE	3640.00	1,070,029	1,014,611	3606.91	3631.95	784,182	978,790	91	96	125	0.51	0.59	0.80	74	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

RESERVOIR NAME	Inflow		Change From A Year Ago		Feet to Fill												
	Current	% of Avg	Elevation	Capacity													
CLARK CANYON	180	50	-1.45	-4,390	26.11												
CANYON FERRY	3,111	73	-0.73	-22,376	12.37												
GIBSON	184	69	-6.64	-2,920	104.37												
PISHKUN	19	N.A.	1.18	864	26.82												
WILLOW CREEK	98	N.A.	-6.78	-8,045	12.68												
LAKE ELWELL	193	67	-5.24	-72,053	15.52												
SHERBURNE	93	109	0.68	518	46.61												
FRESNO	-3	-2	-1.36	-3,205	15.58												
NELSON	18	N.A.	1.48	5,120	5.99												
BIGHORN LAKE	2,434	90	25.04	194,608	8.05												

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# Summary of Operations of Reclamation Projects

- Inflows to Reclamation reservoirs continue to remain at or near record low levels.
- Reservoir storages vary from 31% of average @ Gibson to 108% of average at Lake Sherburne.
- Carry-over storage at most Reclamation projects are generally lower than desired for this time of year, however climatic and hydrologic conditions will be closely monitored and releases adjusted as necessary to best assure the reservoirs of filling to normal full pool levels by next season.
- Water users in the Beaverhead and Sun River watersheds experienced minor water shortages this past year.

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